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XXIV.—*Letter on the Human Remains found in the Shell-Mounds.* By PROFESSOR HUXLEY.

Jermyn Street, June 28th, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR,—I regret that the state of my health compels me to leave London before the meeting of the Ethnological Society on Tuesday next, and that, for the same reason, I have been unable to draw up any detailed report upon the human remains submitted to me by the Council.

I regret this the less, however, as the very fragmentary condition of these remains would, under any circumstances, oblige me to speak with very great hesitation in giving an opinion respecting the races of mankind to which they belong.

Although the bones belong to at least four distinct individuals, and there are many portions of skulls among them, there is no cranial fragment sufficiently large to enable me to form even an approximative judgment as to the contour or the capacity of the skull to which it belonged.

Deprived of this most important datum in any ethnological comparison, I have sought for help from the temporal bone, of which there are several, the fragments of upper and lower maxillæ, and part of a frontal bone. The former all exhibit large auditory foramina, well developed mastoid, vaginal, and styloid processes, and well marked supra-mastoid ridges.

The latter prove that the palate was deeply excavated and narrow; that the molars were large and even-sized, forming a series whose inner contour is almost straight; that in the intermaxillary or incisive part of the upper maxilla, the alveolar margin is remarkably in advance of the lower edge of the nasal aperture; in other words, the front contour of the upper jaw sloped downwards and forwards at a low angle, so that the face must have had as prognathous a character as that of an ordinary Australian. Indeed, the left half of an upper maxilla (marked A) corresponds with great exactness with the corresponding part of a bisected skull of an Australian native in the Hunterian Museum.

The teeth in a lower jaw and part of an upper jaw (marked x) are worn down flat, as if by the mastication of hard food.

The fragment of a frontal bone exhibits strong supraciliary ridges, continued across the glabella, and containing well developed frontal sinuses.

That these are very slight materials on which to base any conclusion as to the races to which the remains belonged is obvious enough. But, such as the evidence is, it appears to me to be altogether opposed to the supposition that the bones belonged to either a Malayan race, or to a people allied to the Andaman

Islanders. On the contrary, I should be inclined to look among the Papuan races of New Guinea or New Holland for the nearest allies of the men to whom the shell-mound once belonged.

I am, my dear sir, faithfully yours,

F. W. HUXLEY.

Dr. Hunt, Secretary of the Ethnological Society.

XXV.—*On some Human Remains from Muskhams, in the Valley of the Trent, and from Heathery Burn Cave, near Stanhope, in Weardale, Durham.* By S. J. MACKIE, F.G.S., F.E.S.

THE remarkable discovery of flint implements in geological strata of Drift origin has infused great energy into the research for knowledge of the primitive races of man; and, although as yet no osseous remains have been found associated with the fossil flint implements, other instructive human relics, of later, but still very ancient periods, have been met with, sometimes in caves, sometimes in tumuli, and sometimes in the alluvial deposits of rivers. This, too, in other countries as well as in our own. Such relics must be very common; but, important as they are to science, they are but rarely preserved, and even the collections made by professedly men of science have been remarkably incomplete.

In some cases, such as those of Neanderthal or Natchez, the stratigraphical details have not been properly recorded; in other cases, such as that of Engis, they have been ignored, or, as in that of Aurignac, have been altogether suppressed. In some cases the works of art have been collected by antiquaries, and the human bones thrown aside; while, on the other hand, the bones have been sometimes preserved, and the works of art dispersed. Even now there is no effort made in our museums to keep together the articles of various finds in the manner in which they were associated; but the articles are divided and separated into classes, and one has to go to a dozen trays or cabinets to pick out unsatisfactorily the objects which, if kept together, would have been as it were an intelligible fragment of a scene of early domestic life or of ancient history. Isolated and fragmentary, in an ethnological point of view, as is still the evidence of the more ancient races of man, yet this evidence is sufficient to show that distinguishing type-characters separated them into distinct groups at a time far anterior to the historic period of our country.

The accompanying table, in which are roughly and temporarily